

SPACE ADVENTURES

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SPACE ADVENTURES

SPACE REPORT

FOR YEARS THE DERELICT HAD
FLOATED AIMLESSLY IN THE
BLACK VOID OF OUTER SPACE,
UNDETECTED BY THE EYE OF
ANY INTELLIGENT BEING....

ITS COURSE HAD BEEN AN
ERRATIC ONE, CHANGING
SLIGHTLY WITH THE IMPACT
OF EACH TINY METEOR
STRIKING THE RUSTY,
PITTED HULL.... AND NOW,
AT LONG LAST THE DEAD
SHIP WAS RETURNING....

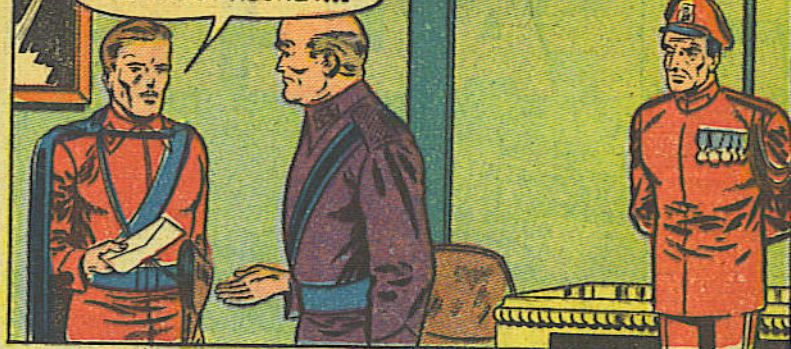
COMING INTO THE FIELD
OF POSITIVE ATTRACTION
OF THE PLANET, EARTH,
THE WRECK WAS SLOWLY
AND INEVITABLY GAINING
SPEED TOWARD THE WORLD
FROM WHENCE IT HAD FIRST
VENTURED BEYOND THE LIMITS
OF THE INTERPLANETARY
FLIGHT CHARTS....

By
STAN
CAMPBELL

SPACE ADVENTURES

THE PRESENCE OF THE DERELICT WAS FIRST DISCOVERED BY THE INHABITANTS OF THIS PLANET IN THE YEAR 2301, BY MEANS OF THE EIGHTEEN HUNDRED-INCH TELESCOPE MOUNTED ON THE SPACE PLATFORM WHICH HAD LONG BEEN CIRCLING THE EARTH. AS IT NEARED, IT WAS TRACKED BY THE RADAR STATION ON THE MOON, AND LATER BY STATIONS ON EARTH... ITS COURSE WAS PLOTTED, AND IT WAS DISCOVERED THAT THE WRECK WOULD LAND IN THE GARDENS ADJACENT TO THE WHITE HOUSE IN WASHINGTON, D. C. / THE CAPITOL WAS IMMEDIATELY EVACUATED AND GOVERNMENT RECORDS TRANSFERRED TO EMERGENCY STATIONS OUTSIDE THE CITY!

EVACUATION OF THE CITY HAS JUST BEEN COMPLETED, GENERAL CRAIG. THE MILITARY POLICE AND A DETACHMENT OF YOUR SHORE PATROL, FLEET ADMIRAL LAFLEURE, WERE THE LAST TO LEAVE. THE THREE OF US ARE NOW ALONE WITHIN THE TWO HUNDRED-MILE CIRCLE... AND HERE'S THE LATEST COMMUNICATION ON THE LOCATION OF THE DERELICT ROCKET...



THANK YOU, MAJOR MARSTON. LET'S SEE HERE... HMMM. WE HAVE A LITTLE OVER THREE HOURS LEFT TO GET OUT FROM UNDER THE CURSED THING! IT'S BEEN IDENTIFIED AS AN EARLY TYPE OF EARTH STAR SHIP, DESIGNED FOR OUTER SPACE... THAT WOULD MAKE IT ABOUT A MILLION TONS OF WRECKAGE...



GOING TO MAKE QUITE A HOLE IN THE WHITE HOUSE LAWN!

THOSE EARLY MODELS WERE CHEMICALLY DRIVEN, TOO, AND IF ANY OF THE TANKS HOLD A RESIDUE OF FUEL, SHE'LL BLOW ALL OF WASHINGTON SKY HIGH... AND THEN SOME!



THE REMAINDER OF THE DISPATCH HERE DESCRIBES IT AS "PROBABLY AN EARLY AMERICAN MILITARY CRAFT... ABOUT 1955 TO 1965." IT SEEMS TO ME THAT I REMEMBER SOMETHING ABOUT THE MILITARY LOSING AN OUTER SPACE CRAFT DURING THAT PERIOD. IT'S RECORDED IN THE OFFICIAL RECORDS OF EARLY SPACIAL NAVIGATION BY THE AMERICAN AIR FORCES...

I REMEMBER IT, TOO... WELL, IT PROVES ONE THING, ANYWAY. THE OLD ADAGE TO THE EFFECT THAT "ALL THAT GOES UP MUST COME DOWN" IS STILL WORKING PERFECTLY!



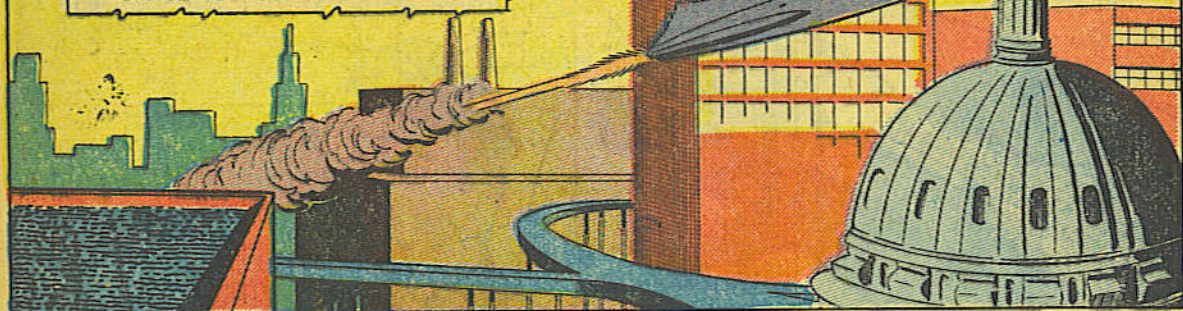
TOO BAD IT'S NOT POSSIBLE TO HALT THE WRECK OUT IN SPACE AND DEFINITELY IDENTIFY IT. IT MIGHT HAVE A VERY INTERESTING STORY TO TELL US, GENERAL...

IT WILL ENTER OUR ATMOSPHERE MOVING AT THOUSANDS OF MILES PER MINUTE... BUT THOSE OLD CHEMICALLY DRIVEN SHIPS WERE TOUGH DEVILS! THE HULL AROUND THE PAY LOADS WERE VERY THICK. IT'S REMOTELY POSSIBLE THAT THERE'LL BE SOMETHING LEFT OF HER, EVEN AFTER SHE HITS THE GROUND.

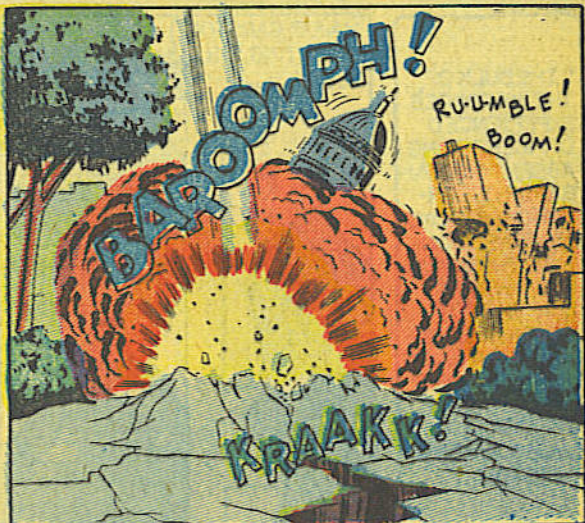
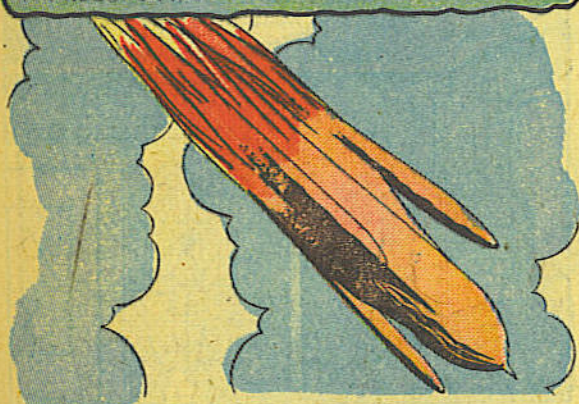


SPACE ADVENTURES

THE LAST ROCKET ROARED SKYWARD TOWARD EMERGENCY HEADQUARTERS, LEAVING THE CAPITOL SILENT AND DESERTED, AND AWAITING ITS UNCERTAIN FATE AT THE HANDS OF THE JUGGERNAUT RACING OUT OF SPACE TOWARD IT....



WITH THE SCREAM OF A THOUSAND BANSHEES, THE WRECK ENTERED THE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE AND BURST INTO FLAMES. WITHIN SECONDS THE ENTIRE TAIL OF THE SHIP BECAME INCANDESCENT...



SIR, I'VE FOUND THE VOLUME OF "SPACE HISTORY OF THE AIR FORCE" THAT COVERS THE INCIDENTS YOU WERE INTERESTED IN. I'VE MARKED THE PLACE FOR YOU.



THANKS, LIEUTENANT. I'M LEAVING FOR MY QUARTERS NOW. LET ME KNOW THE INSTANT THE SALVAGE PARTY HAS ACCOMPLISHED ANYTHING IN WASHINGTON.

STRAIGHT TO MY QUARTERS SERGEANT.



YES, SIR.

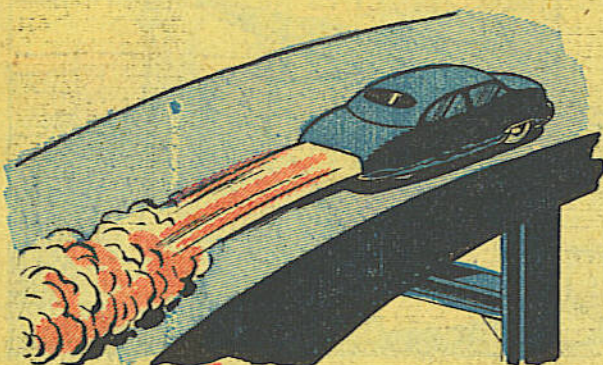
LET'S SEE, NOW... YES, HERE IT IS... "DISAPPEARANCE OF THE STAR SHIP, NAUTILIS... JUNE 7, 1957! THAT WAS DURING THE REPULSE OF THE FIRST VENUSIAN INVASION... JUST ABOUT THE TIME EARTH PEOPLE WERE REALIZING THE CLOUDS OF VENUS COVERED MORE THAN A BARREN PLANET, AND THAT WE HAD A HIGHLY INTELLIGENT, AND VICIOUS NEIGHBOR!"



SPACE ADVENTURES

"...DURING THE SECOND YEAR OF THE VENUSIAN WAR I, WITH THE ENEMY IN RETREAT... THE TACTICAL SPACE FORCE, PITIFULLY SMALL AT THE TIME, WAS ALL AWAY FROM HOME PORTS, EXCEPT FOR ONE STARSHIP, UNDERGOING FULL SCALE OVERHAUL... THE NAUTILIS, 1 MILLION, 750 THOUSAND TONS."

"...IT WAS AT THIS TIME THAT THE PRESENCE OF THE MINERAL Z-71 WAS DISCOVERED TO EXIST IN QUANTITY ON THE PLANET MERCURY, DUE TO RESEARCH OF THE HIGH-POWERED TELESCOPES OF THE PERIOD... THE MINERAL WAS INVALUABLE AS A SOURCE OF POWER FOR ROCKET PROPULSION AND WAS VERY SCARCE ON EARTH. IT WAS DECIDED TO SPEED REHABILITATION OF THE NAUTILIS AND SEND HER TO MERCURY IMMEDIATELY..."



"...THE BULK OF THE AIR FORCE'S EXPERIENCED OFFICERS BEING ABSENT ON COMBAT OR OBSERVATION MISSIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE VENUSIAN WAR, THE SHIP WAS PUT UNDER THE COMMAND OF A YOUNG AND RELATIVELY INEXPERIENCED OFFICER, ONE MAJOR SAMUEL CARSTON..."

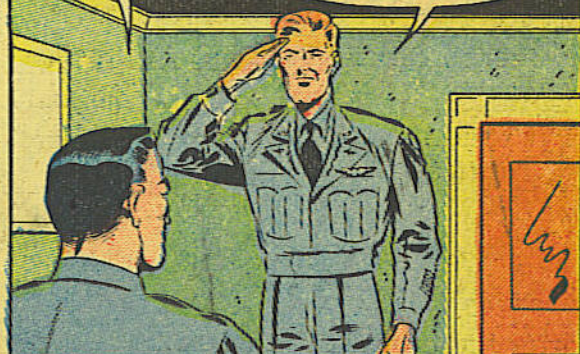
MAJOR CARSTON IS WAITING, SIR.

GOOD. SEND HIM IN, SERGEANT.



GOOD TO SEE YOU, MAJOR. SIT DOWN. DO YOU KNOW WHAT ASSIGNMENT YOU'RE HERE ON?

MY ORDERS STATE THAT I'M TO ASSUME COMMAND OF THE NAUTILIS ON MAY 15, SIR, AND PROCEED TO MERCURY ON A MINING MISSION FOR Z-71.



THAT'S RIGHT, THE NAUTILIS WILL BE READY FOR FLIGHT AND LOADED WITH FUEL AND PROVISIONS BY THE 15th. YOU WILL BLAST OFF AT 0600 ON THE 16th. THERE SHOULD BE NO REAL DIFFICULTY. THERE'S NO LIFE ON MERCURY TO CONTEND WITH... JUST BE SURE YOU FOLLOW THE LANDING PATTERN FOR THE PLANET CAREFULLY...

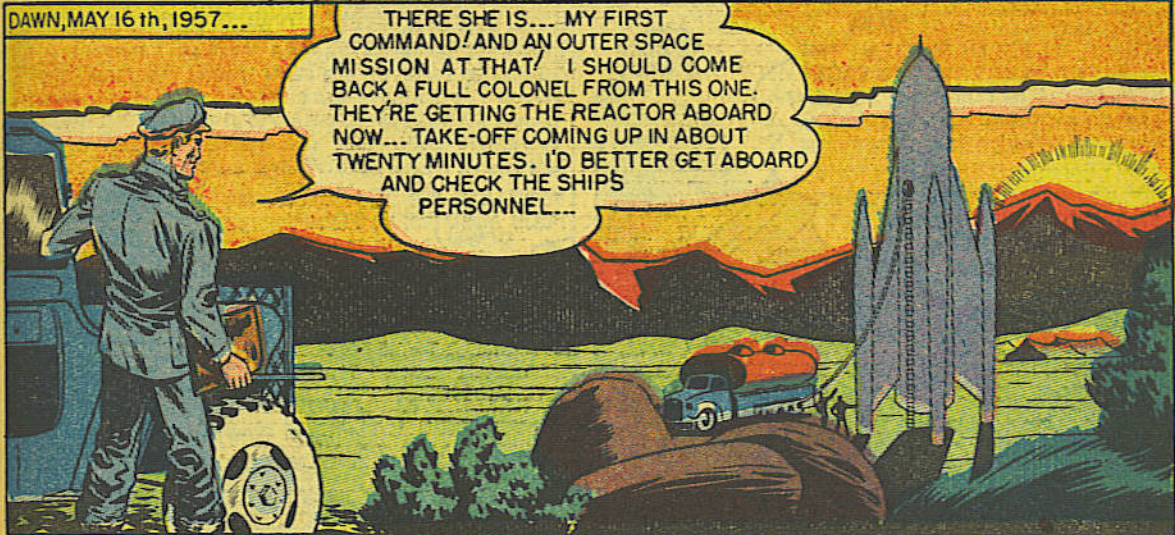
THE PLANET DOESN'T ROTATE, AS YOU KNOW, AND ITS CLOSE PROXIMITY TO THE SUN MAKES ITS LIGHT SIDE IN THE THOUSANDS OF DEGREES, WHILE THE DARK SIDE IS SUB-ZERO. THE PERIMETER WILL SUPPORT LIFE FOR A SHORT TIME... LONG ENOUGH FOR YOU TO FILL YOUR HOLDS WITH THE METAL. THIS WILL BE OUR FIRST ACTUAL LANDING ON MERCURY, BUT YOU WILL FIND EVALUATIONS OF IT IN THE "SPACE HISTORY" TO BE PRETTY CLOSE. JUST STICK BY THE BOOK AND YOU'LL MAKE OUT ALL RIGHT!



SPACE ADVENTURES

DAWN, MAY 16th, 1957...

THERE SHE IS... MY FIRST COMMAND! AND AN OUTER SPACE MISSION AT THAT! I SHOULD COME BACK A FULL COLONEL FROM THIS ONE. THEY'RE GETTING THE REACTOR ABOARD NOW... TAKE-OFF COMING UP IN ABOUT TWENTY MINUTES. I'D BETTER GET ABOARD AND CHECK THE SHIP'S PERSONNEL...



BROTHER, WHAT A PARTY THAT WAS LAST NIGHT! I FEEL LIKE SOMETHING THAT WAS CALLED FOR AND COULDN'T COME THIS MORNING. SAY... DID 'GREASY' GET THOSE LAST OXYGEN TANKS ABOARD LAST NIGHT? WE WERE SUPPOSED TO CHECK ON THAT...

YOU KNOW I AIN'T BEEN ON THE SHIP THIS MORNING. WE'VE BEEN TOGETHER EVER SINCE WE LEFT LINDY'S CLUB THREE HOURS AGO. THE WAY MY HEAD'S GOIN' AROUND, I COULD NO MORE CLIMB UP THAT LADDER THAN AN ELEPHANT COULD WALK A TIGHT ROPE!

GREASY WAS AT LINDY'S TOO... WE'D OUGHT TO CHECK... I BET THAT STINKER HIT STRAIGHT FOR HIS SACK WHEN HE LEFT THE CLUB!

LISTEN, JUST KEEP MUM ABOUT IT, SEE? HERE COMES THE SKIPPER, NOW, AND THIS CARSTON IS A TOUGH COOKIE! IF WE GO TALLYING UP THE OXYGEN UNITS NOW, IT'LL HOLD UP HIS TAKE-OFF FOR ANOTHER HOUR... HE'D COURT-MARTIAL US BOTH FOR THAT!

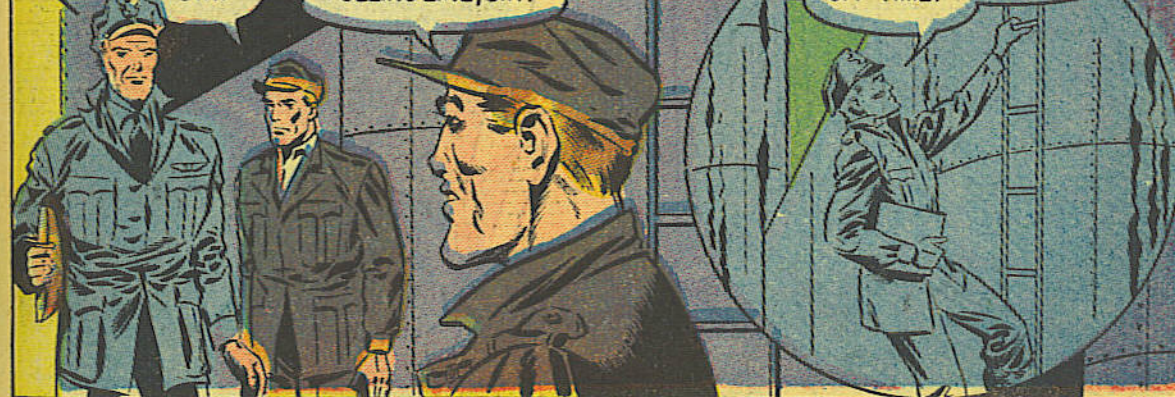


MORNING, MEN, ARE WE NEARLY FUELED?

YES, SIR. ABOUT ANOTHER FIVE MINUTES, SIR.

LIEUTENANT McFEE IS ABOARD THE SHIP, SIR, WITH YOUR FINAL CLEARANCES AND LOADING REPORT. WILL YOU PLEASE TELL ONE OF THE CREW TO STAND BY TO FREE THE FUELING LINE, SIR?

I'LL TELL THEM. BE SURE YOU MEN HAVE THAT TRUCK WELL CLEAR BY 0600. THE REACTOR IN IT WILL GO OFF LIKE AN ATOM BOMB IF THE TAIL PIPE HEAT RADIUS AT BLAST-OFF TIME!



SPACE ADVENTURES

0550, MAY 16th, 1957...

YOU'RE ALL SET, MAJOR. I'LL NOTE THE EXACT TIME OF YOUR DEPARTURE IN THE FINAL REPORT AND FILE IT FOR YOU. YOU KNOW YOU ARE TO KEEP IN TOUCH EACH FIFTEEN MINUTES AFTER TAKE-OFF BY RADIO FOR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE, AND THEREAFTER BY RADAR SIGNALS... HAVE A GOOD TRIP, SIR!

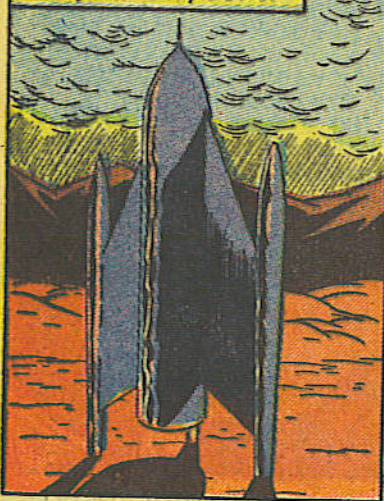
THANKS, McFEE. WE'LL SEE YOU AGAIN BEFORE CHRISTMAS. SO LONG...

0556, MAY 16th, 1957...

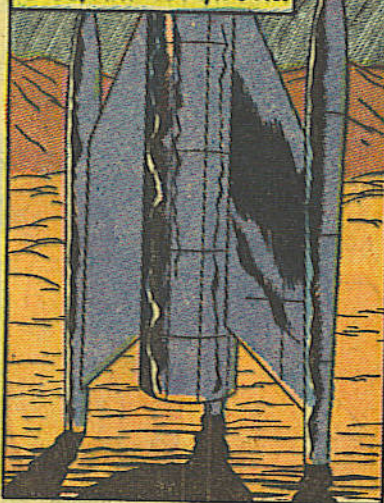
STRAPPED IN TIGHT, CAPTAIN? BE WITH YOU IN A SECOND... OPEN THE OUTBOARD THROTTLES FULL. OPEN THE MAIN JET THROTTLE AND PREPARE TO IGNITE THE REACTOR TANKS, RADIO THE NAVIGATOR FOR FINAL COURSE SETTINGS AND LEAVE THE SWITCH OPEN... SETTINGS EACH MINUTE FOR TWENTY FIVE MINUTES. P.A. TO CREW... BLASTING OFF IN FOUR MINUTES... STRAP DOWN!

CHECK, MAJOR... ALL SET.

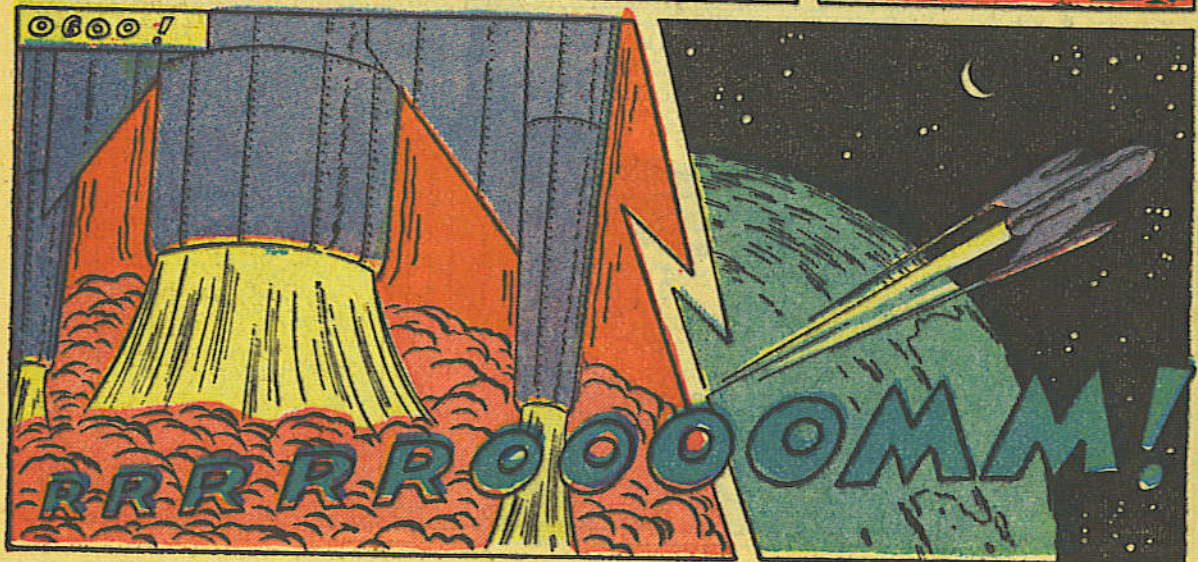
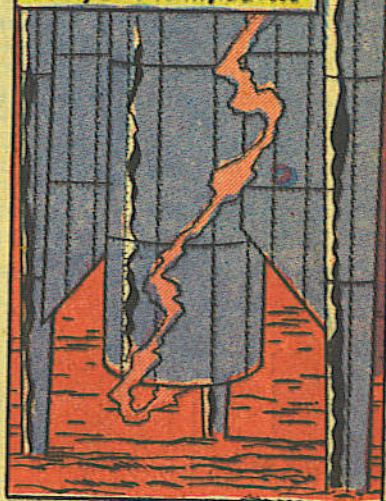
0557, MAY 16th, 1957...



0558, MAY 16th, 1957...



0559, MAY 16th, 1957...



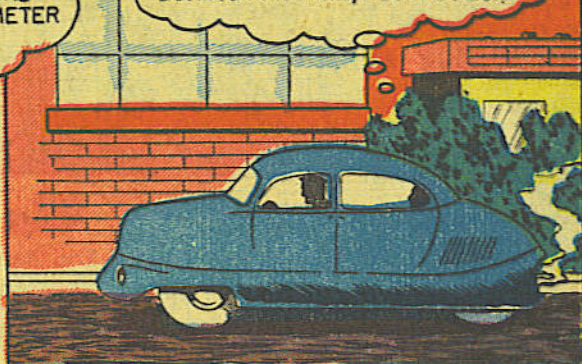
SPACE ADVENTURES

"...AFTER THE BLAST OFF ON MAY 16th, SIGNALS WERE RECEIVED FROM THE ROCKET AS PER PREARRANGEMENT UNTIL THE EXPEDITION WAS WITHIN THE LAST QUARTER OF ITS JOURNEY. THE LAST SIGNAL WAS RECEIVED AT 1400, 7 JUNE, 1957. NO FURTHER WORD HAS BEEN RECEIVED OF THE NAUTILIS OR HER CREW AS OF THIS WRITING, AND LATER SURVEYS OF MERCURY HAVE SHOWN NO TRACE OF THE ROCKET..."

"...ATOMIC POWER BEING INTRODUCED TO SPACE TRAVEL IN EARLY 1958, THE MINERAL Z-71, EXISTING IN ABUNDANCE ON MERCURY, BECAME OBSOLETE AS A SOURCE OF POWER. NO FURTHER LANDINGS HAVE BEEN MADE ON MERCURY AS OF THIS WRITING. ORBITAL OBSERVATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE OF THE PERIMETER BY U.S. MILITARY AT REGULAR INTERVALS, AND SHALL CONTINUE..."



AND SO CARSTON WAS COURT-MARTIALED IN ABSENTIA FOR LOSING HIS SHIP AND CREW. THE UNFORTUNATE CIRCUMSTANCE OF A JUNIOR OFFICER NOT FULLY QUALIFIED FOR RESPONSIBILITIES THRUST UPON HIM DURING WAR TIME, I SUPPOSE...



YOU CAN REPORT BACK TO THE TRANSPORTATION POOL NOW, DRIVER.

YES, SIR.

GENERAL, THE REMAINS OF THE SPACE DERELICT HAVE BEEN DUG OUT IN WASHINGTON. THIS SHIP'S LOG, OR WHAT'S LEFT OF IT... WAS FOUND. I BROUGHT IT TO YOU IMMEDIATELY...

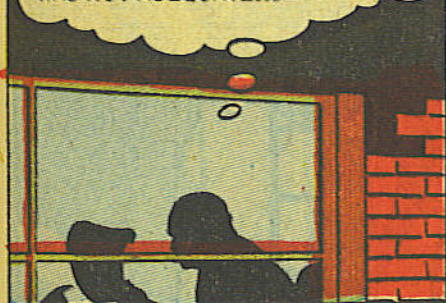


THANK YOU, CAPTAIN. I SHALL READ THIS AFTER DINNER... WITH MUCH INTEREST, I THINK. TELL ME, WAS THE WRECK AN AIR FORCE CRAFT NAMED THE "NAUTILIS," BY ANY CHANCE?

WHY... YES, SIR! HOW... HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT, SIR?



LATER, THAT NIGHT... THE LOG OF THE NAUTILIS... IN THE HAND OF MAJOR SAM CARSTON! YES, IT'S HERE... ENTRY OF JUNE 7, 1957... "RADAR HAS BROKEN DOWN AND NO FURTHER SIGNALS TO EARTH WILL BE POSSIBLE. WE ARE FAR OUT OF RADIO RANGE. THE RECONDITIONING OF OUR COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM WAS NOT ADEQUATE..."



"JUNE 11, 1957. WE HAVE ESTABLISHED AN ORBIT AROUND MERCURY. THE PERIMETER HAS BEEN OBSERVED AROUND THE PLANET (RADAR PROBES BEING IMPOSSIBLE NOW). WE SHALL LAND DURING THE NEXT TWENTY FOUR HOURS..."



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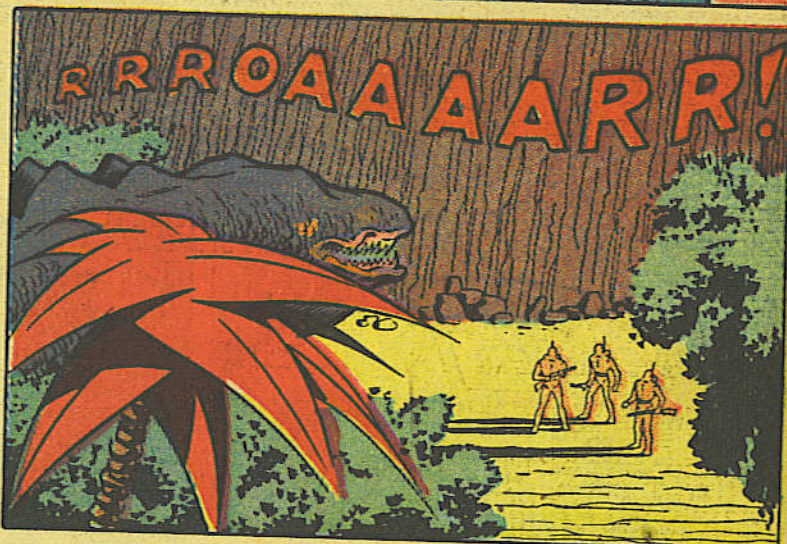


THE LANDING WAS MADE IN A LARGE VALLEY, THE ONLY KNOWN LANDING OF A GROUP OF HUMAN BEINGS ON MERCURY. THE SHIP IS RESTING WELL. WATER AND PLANT LIFE SEEM TO ABOUND IN THE VALLEY. THE ATMOSPHERE IS POISONOUS TO US, AND WE ARE OBLIGED TO WEAR FULL SPACE EQUIPMENT...

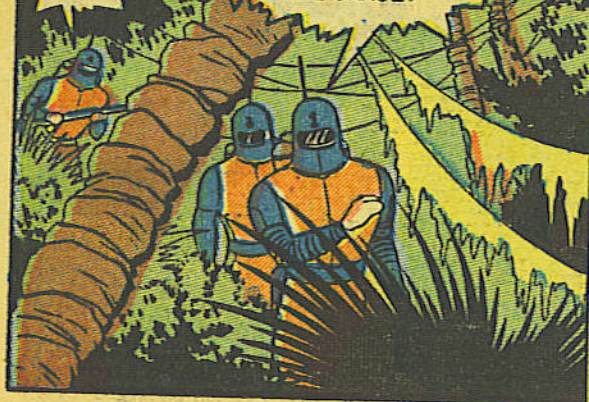
CAPTAIN, YOU TAKE THREE OF THE MEN AND EXPLORE THE VALLEY IN THAT DIRECTION. THE REST OF US WILL TAKE A LOOK UP HERE IN THIS END OF IT. DON'T STAY OUT TOO LONG.



"WE HAD BEEN OUT FOR PERHAPS AN HOUR. I HAD GIVEN ORDERS TO RETURN TO THE SHIP, AS I DIDN'T INTEND TO EXPLORE BEYOND THE VALLEY WALL, WHEN..."

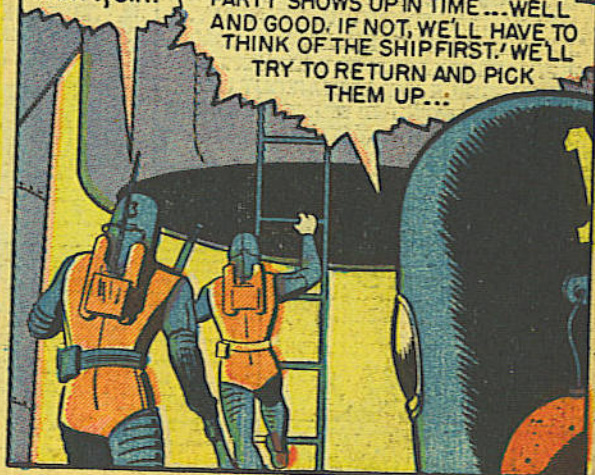


IT'S COMING AFTER US, SIR!
WE'RE OUTDISTANCING IT. IT DOESN'T SEEM TO MOVE VERY FAST... TOO BIG, PROBABLY. GET BACK TO THE ROCKET IN CASE IT DOESN'T ABANDON THE CHASE!



WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER PARTY, SIR?

THAT THING IS BIG ENOUGH TO DAMAGE OUR SHIP IF THE OTHER PARTY SHOWS UP IN TIME... WELL AND GOOD. IF NOT, WE'LL HAVE TO THINK OF THE SHIP FIRST. WE'LL TRY TO RETURN AND PICK THEM UP...

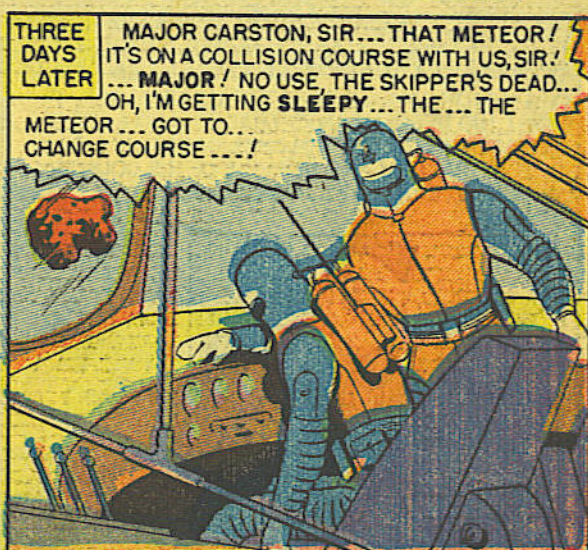
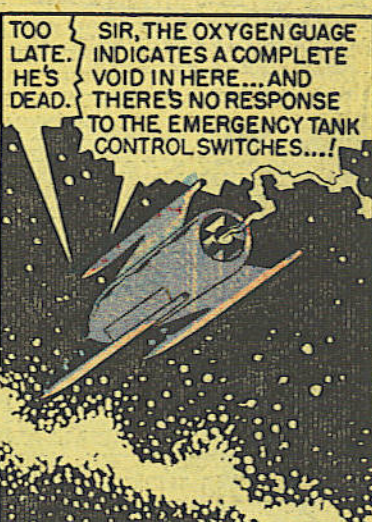
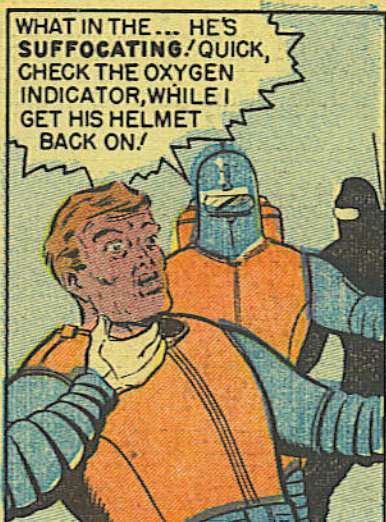
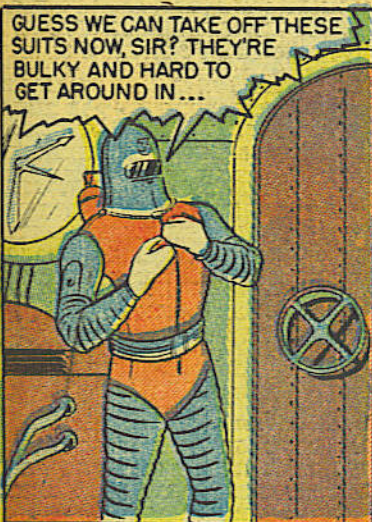
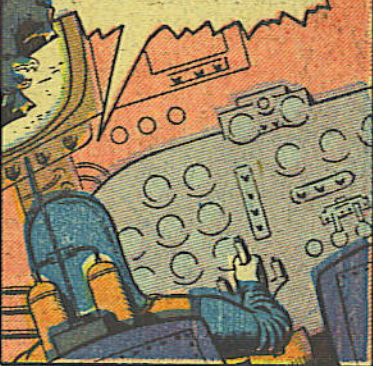


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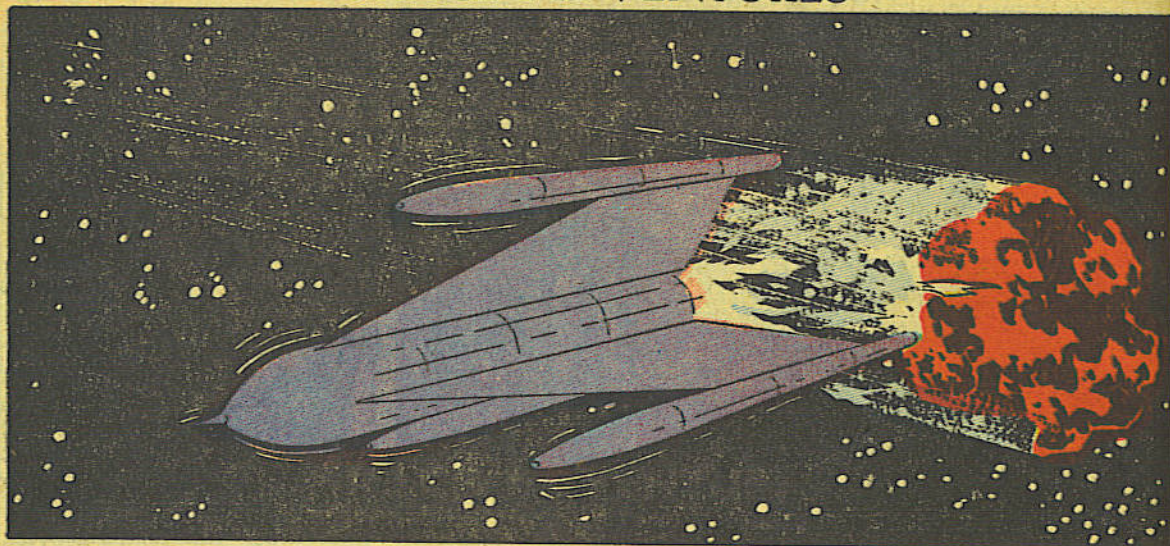


ALL JETS
PRIMED...TRIP
THE IGNITER
SWITCH!

WHEW! JUST IN TIME, BOYS! WE'LL
ORBIT FOR TWENTY FOUR HOURS,
AND RETURN TO PICK UP THE
OTHERS. WHEN WE LAND AGAIN
WE'LL SET UP SOME SMALL FIELD
PIECES TO HANDLE THAT THING
IF IT COMES BACK...



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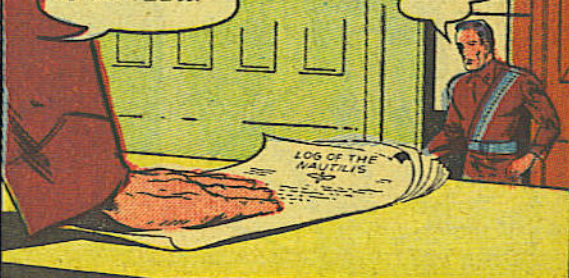
KNOCKED OUT OF ITS ORBIT AROUND MERCURY BY THE METEOR, THE DEAD SHIP DRIFTED SLOWLY TOWARD THE OUTER VOIDS...



LIEUTENANT, I WANT A GENERAL COURT CONVENED TODAY FOR THE PURPOSE OF REVERSING THE DECISION OF A COURT THAT SAT IN JUDGMENT OF A MAJOR SAMUEL CARSTON, USAF, IN 1958. I WANT HIS DESCENDANTS TRACED, AND EACH OF THEM NOTIFIED THAT **COLONEL** CARSTON DIED IN OUTER SPACE IN THE SERVICE OF HIS COUNTRY IN THE YEAR 1957... HONORABLY



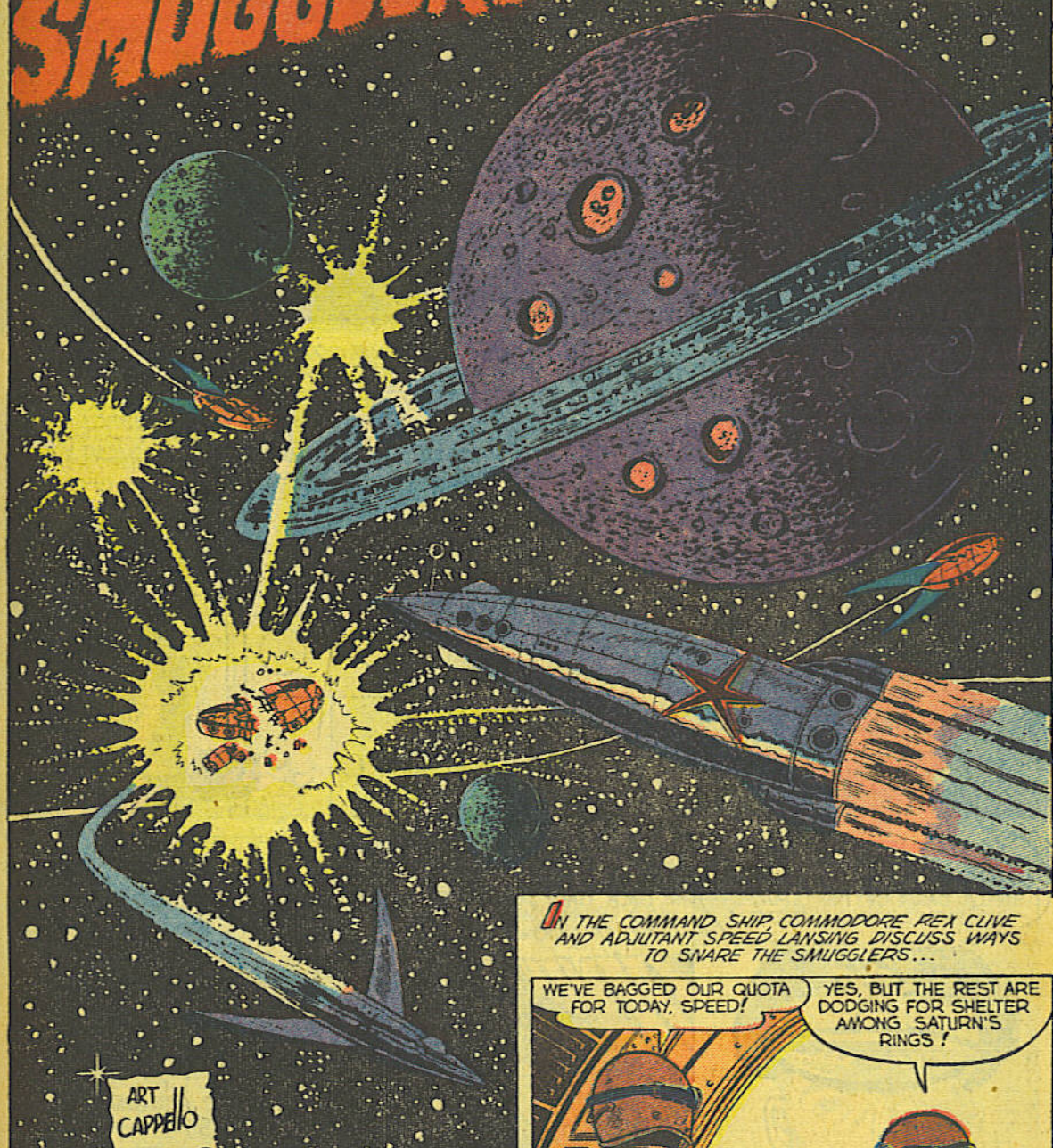
I SUPPOSE THEY'LL START THE REBUILDING OF THE CAPITOL IN A DAY OR SO WHEN THE WRECK OF THE NAUTILIS IS REMOVED. FIND OUT THE PROCEDURE WE'D HAVE TO FOLLOW IN ORDER TO GET A SMALL STATUE OF SOME KIND ERECTED ON THE CAPITOL GROUNDS. WE'VE NEVER HAD ANY KIND OF MEMORIAL TO THOSE EARLY SPACE EXPLORERS THAT DIED IN THE 1950'S, AND I THINK IT'S HIGH TIME WE DID... THEY HAD A ROUGH ROAD TO TRAVEL...



YES, SIR...

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SMUGGLERS OFF SATURN



IN THE COMMAND SHIP COMMODORE REX CLIVE AND ADJUTANT SPEED LANSING DISCUSS WAYS TO SNARE THE SMUGGLERS...

WE'VE BAGGED OUR QUOTA FOR TODAY, SPEED!

YES, BUT THE REST ARE DODGING FOR SHELTER AMONG SATURN'S RINGS!

FOR YEARS, SPACE SMUGGLERS HAVE BEEN THE BIG HEADACHE OF OUR SOLAR SYSTEM! NOW, IN THE YEAR 2553 A.D., THE SPACE OFFICERS ARE WORKING OVERTIME, CHASING SUCH SMUGGLERS AROUND THE RINGS OF THE MIGHTY PLANET SATURN!

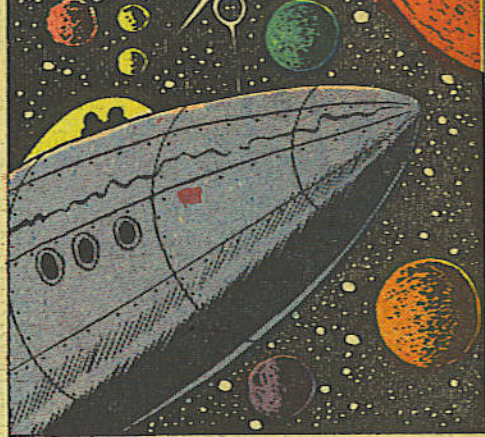
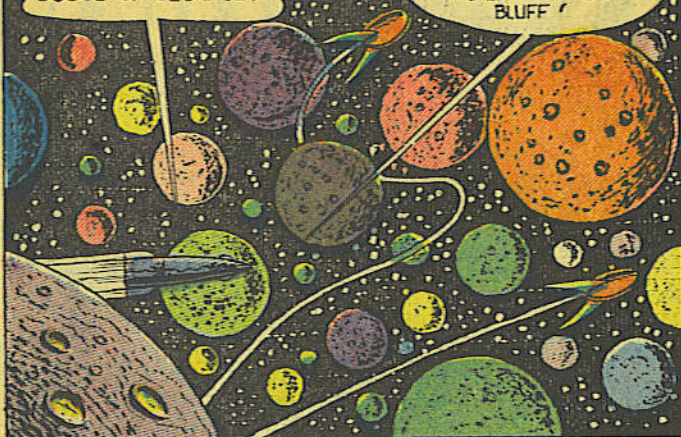


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WHY THERE MUST BE A **MILLION** MOONLETS COMPOSING THESE RINGS, REX! THOSE SMUGGLERS ARE TAKING US ON A WILD GOOSE SPACECHASE!

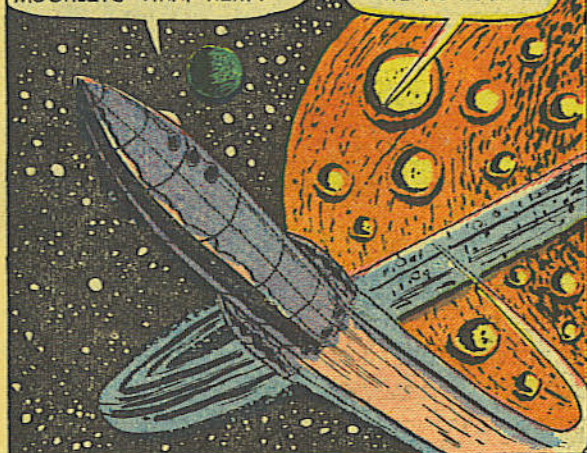
ALL THE MORE REASON TO TAIL THEM, SPEED! WE WANT THEM TO **THINK** WE'VE FALLEN FOR THEIR BLUFF!

SO THE LONGER WE HUNT FOR THEM, THE MORE THEY WILL THINK THEY FOOLLED US, SPEED!



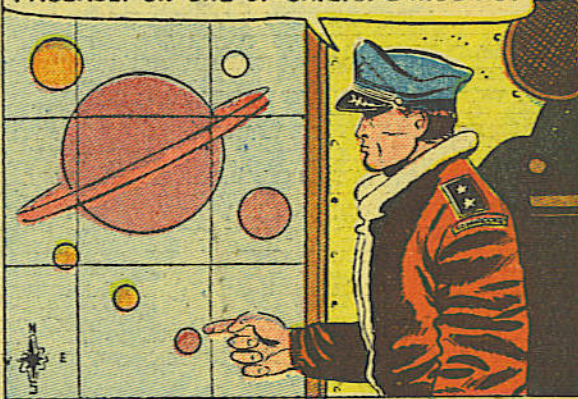
LATER... OKAY, REX. WE SPENT TEN HOURS MESSING AROUND THOSE MOONLETS WHAT NEXT?

WE'LL HIGHTAIL IT FOR OUR BASE ON TITAN AND STUDY THE SITUATION THERE!



AT THE SPACE OFFICERS' BASE ON TITAN, THE LARGEST OF SATURN'S NINE MOONS...

OBVIOUSLY THE SPACE SMUGGLERS ARE DECOYING US TO SATURN'S RINGS TO DIVERT SUSPICION FROM SOME SHADY WORK THEY ARE STAGING ELSEWHERE... **PROBABLY ON ONE OF SATURN'S MOONS!**



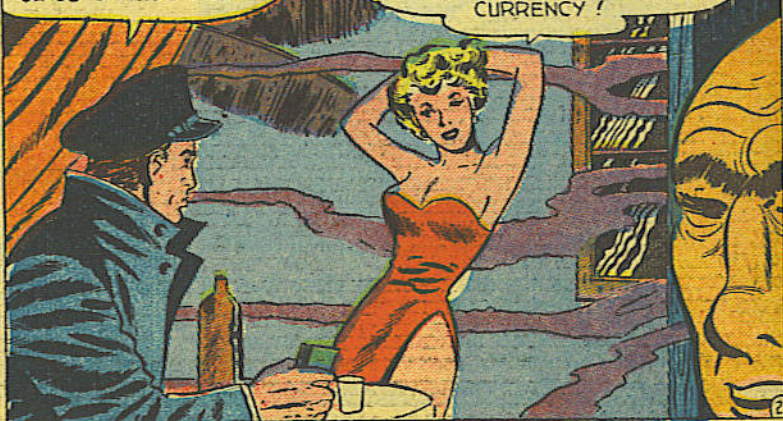
SO I'M PLACING ADJUTANT SPEED LANSING IN **FULL COMMAND** WHILE I WORK WITH STELLA DAWN OF THE "STARS" AND LEARN THE WHOLE ANSWER!



POSING AS THE MATE OF A SPACEFREIGHTER, REX ENTERS A TITANESE NIGHT-CLUB WHERE STELLA IS WORKING UNDER ANOTHER NAME...

HI, GALA GAL! HOW ABOUT JOINING ME IN A GLASS OF MOONADE?

WELL, WELL! HOW COULD I REFUSE ANYONE WITH SUCH A BUNDLE OF INTERPLANETARY CURRENCY!



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HI, MATEY...HOW ABOUT BUYING A BUNCH OF DIAMONDS FOR YOUR GAL FRIEND? I'LL MAKE THE PRICE RIGHT.

WHY, HOW LOVELY!



I'LL BUY THE WHOLE LOT! THIS SHOULD COVER IT...AND YOU CAN KEEP THE CHANGE.

THANKS, MATEY!



BUT EVEN IF THEY **ARE** SMUGGLED, HOW CAN THEY BE SO CHEAP?

THEY MUST COME FROM A PLACE WHERE THE SUPPLY IS INEXHAUSTIBLE! THAT COULD ONLY BE THE MOON JAPETUS. **WE'LL START THERE TOMORROW!**



FROM THE WAY HE BOUGHT THOSE DIAMONDS WITH **NO ARGUMENT**, I'D SAY HE WAS A SPACE OFFICER, KOKO!

YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT, ZAQ! WE'LL WATCH HIM!

SO, THE NEXT MORNING, REX AND STELLA WERE SECRETLY SHADOWED BY THE SPACE SMUGGLERS ZAQ AND KOKO!

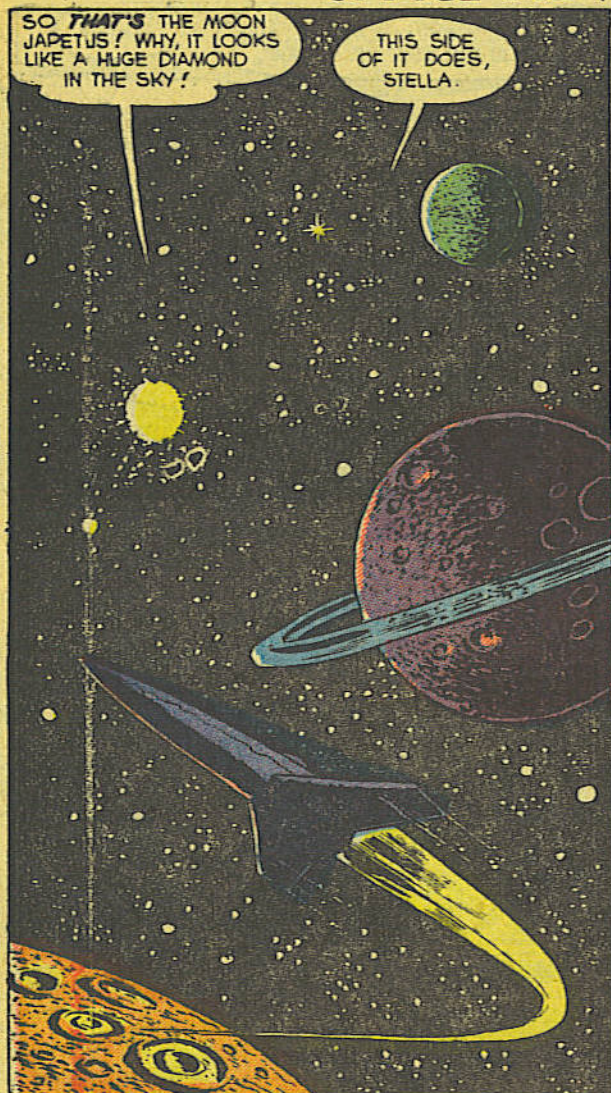


BUT **WHY** ARE YOU **SURE** THE SMUGGLED DIAMONDS COME FROM JAPETUS?

YOU'LL SEE WHEN WE GET THERE, STELLA!

YOU **WERE** RIGHT, ZAQ! THEY'RE OFF FOR JAPETUS...AND THAT'S WHERE WE'LL TRAP THEM!

SPACE ADVENTURES

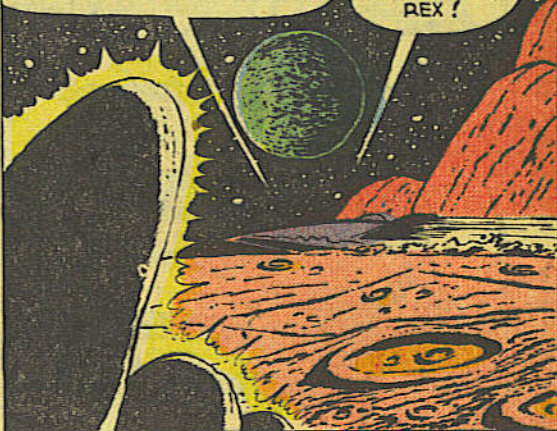


SO *THAT'S* THE MOON JAPETUS! WHY, IT LOOKS LIKE A HUGE DIAMOND IN THE SKY!

THIS SIDE OF IT DOES, STELLA.

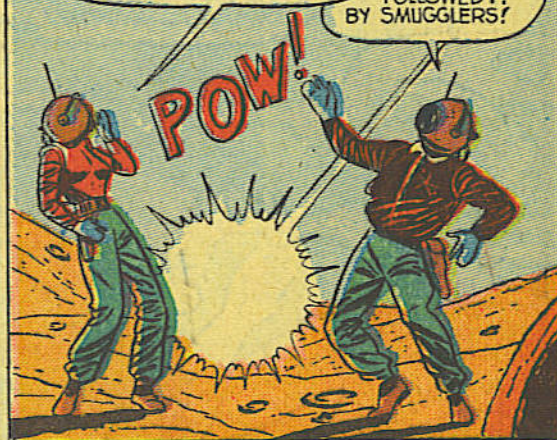
IN FACT, JAPETUS IS THE BRIGHTEST THING IN THE SKY. BUT WE ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT IT WAS ONLY *QUARTZ* OR *MICA* THAT CAUSED IT TO SHINE. NOW WE KNOW IT MUST BE DIAMONDS!

I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT, REX!



THESE *ARE* DIAMONDS! BILLIONS OF KAZAKS WORTH... AND ONE KAZAK IS WORTH 10,000 EARTH DOLLARS...

DON'T LOOK NOW, STELLA, BUT WE'VE BEEN FOLLOWED... BY SMUGGLERS!

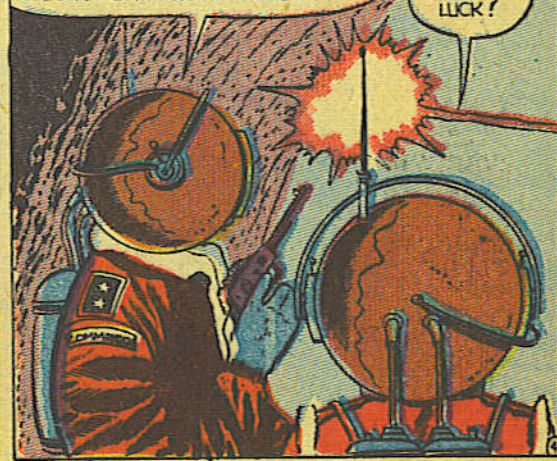
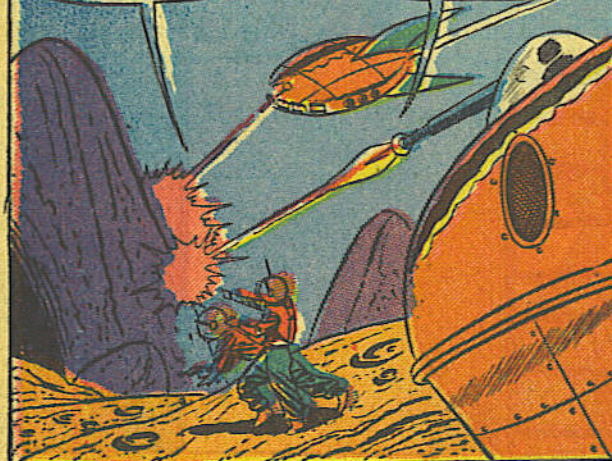


LET'S GET INTO THE DIAMOND QUARRY AND HOLD THEM OFF!

BUT WE HAVEN'T A CHANCE, REX... AGAINST ALL THEIR RAYGUNS!

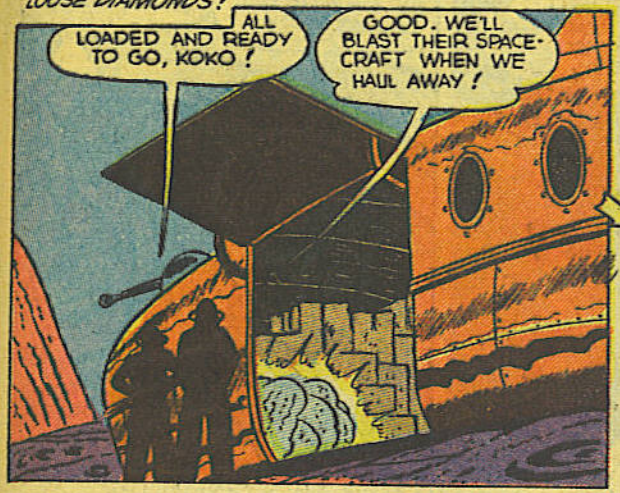
WE HAVE *PLENTY* OF CHANCE, STELLA! EVEN THOSE RAYS CAN'T BLAST DIAMOND ORE...THE HARDEST SUBSTANCE IN THE UNIVERSE!

WE'RE SURE IN LUCK!



SPACE ADVENTURES

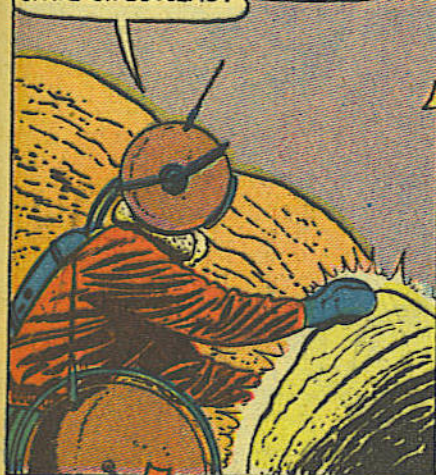
WHILE REX AND STELLA HOLD THEM OFF, THE SPACE SMUGGLERS LOAD ONE OF THEIR SHIPS WITH THE LOOSE DIAMONDS!



ALL LOADED AND READY TO GO, KOKO!

GOOD. WE'LL BLAST THEIR SPACECRAFT WHEN WE HAUL AWAY!

HELP ME GET THIS BIG DIAMOND LOOSE AND WE'LL SHOW THOSE SPACE SMUGGLERS!



THERE THEY GO, REX... AND THERE GOES *OUR* SPACECRAFT! NOW WE CAN'T EVEN *SIGNAL* THE SPACE OFFICERS!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN WE CAN'T!

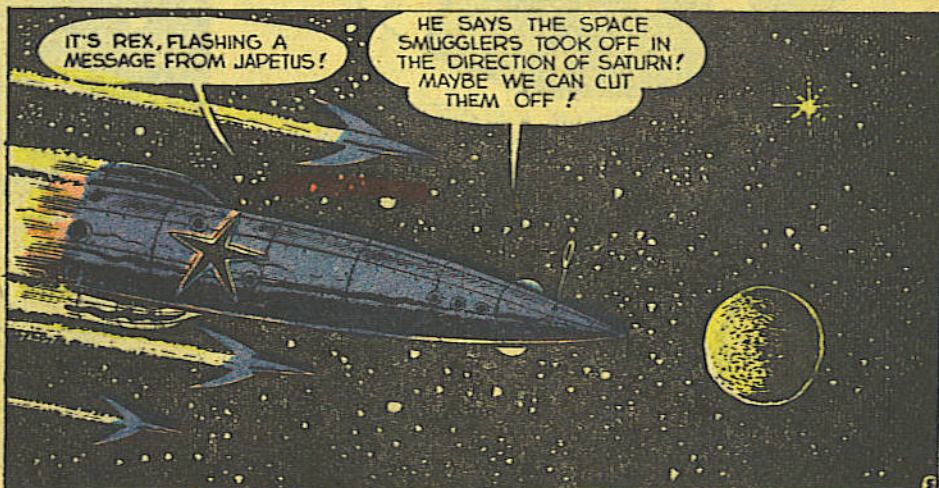


AND HALF A MILLION MILES AWAY, SPEED LANSING AND HIS PATROLLING SQUADRON CATCH THE CODED SIGNAL BLINKS!

TOGETHER, REX AND STELLA SET UP THE HUGE DIAMOND LIKE A MAMMOTH SEARCHLIGHT. ... WITH IT, THEY CAPTURE THE REFLECTED GLINT OF THE DISTANT SUN...

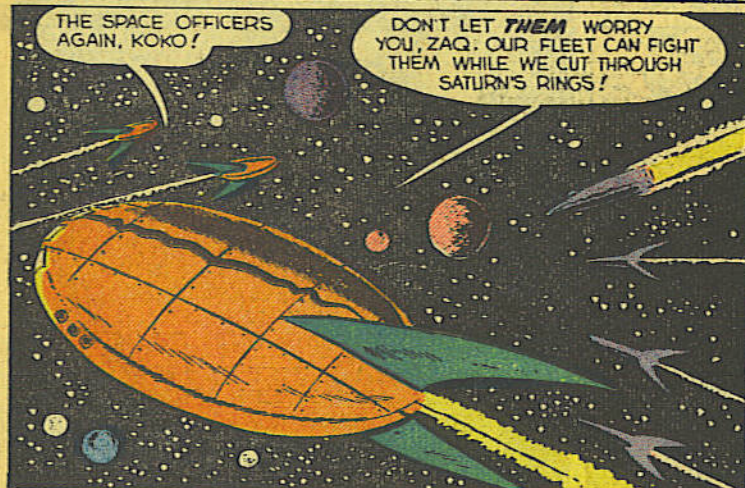
IT'S REX, FLASHING A MESSAGE FROM JAPETUS!

HE SAYS THE SPACE SMUGGLERS TOOK OFF IN THE DIRECTION OF SATURN! MAYBE WE CAN CUT THEM OFF!



SPACE ADVENTURES

AS THEY SEE THE SPACE OFFICERS COMING IN FROM THE FLANK, ZAQ AND KOKO PULL THEIR USUAL TRICK...



THE SPACE OFFICERS AGAIN, KOKO!

DON'T LET **THEM** WORRY YOU, ZAQ. OUR FLEET CAN FIGHT THEM WHILE WE CUT THROUGH SATURN'S RINGS!

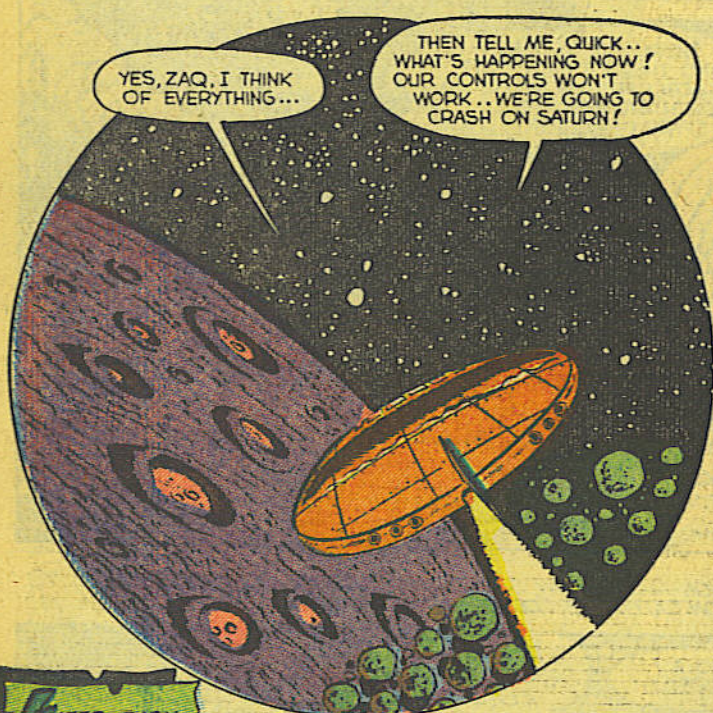
AND WHY WORRY ABOUT OUR **OTHER** SHIPS? WE HAVE ALL THE DIAMONDS ON **THIS** ONE!

THAT MAKES IT PERFECT! YOU THINK OF **EVERY-THING**, KOKO!



YES, ZAQ, I THINK OF EVERYTHING...

THEN TELL ME, QUICK... WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW! OUR CONTROLS WON'T WORK... WE'RE GOING TO CRASH ON SATURN!



BEFORE KOKO CAN TELL ZAQ WHAT TO DO, THE SHIP AND ITS SMUGGLED CARGO TAKE THE FATAL PLUNGE!



LATER BACK ON JAPETUS...

WE WIPED OUT THE SMUGGLER FLEET AND THEIR LEAD SHIP CRASHED ON SATURN... THOUGH I DON'T KNOW WHY!

YOU'LL FIND OUT WHEN WE SALVAGE THEIR CARGO. IT WAS SO LOADED WITH DIAMONDS THAT SATURN'S GRAVITY PULLED IT DOWN! THAT'S WHY I LET THEM GO!

MY, YOU THINK OF **EVERY-THING**, REX!



the End

SPACE ADVENTURES

CLIVE SPACE KING, BECOMES AN INTERPLANETARY DETECTIVE IN...

The WAR BETWEEN THE WORLDS

I AM CHOO, NEWLY APPOINTED MASTER DEVIL OF THE DEVIL MASTERS WHO DWELL ON THE PLANET ZOD! WE SHALL BOMBARD OUR TWIN WORLD, DOX, INTO SUBMISSION WITH OUR VOLCANIC TUBE-GUNS!

Rick Giordano

REX CLIVE IS ON THE GOOD PLANET, DOX, WHICH HAS DEFEATED ITS EVIL TWIN, ZOD AND DRIVEN THE ZODIAN DEVILS UNDERGROUND... NOW THE PLANET ZOD IS GAINING ITS REVENGE WITH A LONG RANGE BARRAGE... AT A COUNCIL ON DOX, REX OFFERS A PLAN...

WHY NOT INVADE ZOD AND MOP UP THE DEVILS ONCE AND FOR ALL!

BECAUSE THEY WOULD THEN LAUNCH ALL-OUT WARFARE. FIRST WE MUST OBTAIN THEIR SECRET PLANS.

WHY NOT SEND REX TO FIND THOSE PLANS? FIT HIM WITH FALSE HORNS AND HE COULD PASS AS A ZODIAN DEVIL!

AN EXCELLENT IDEA, VALGO! IT WILL BE A GREAT HONOR FOR REX!



SPACE ADVENTURES

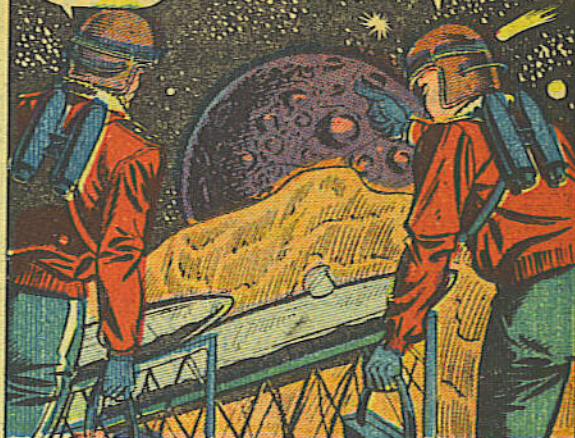
HONOR, NOTHING! VALGO WANTS TO GET RID OF ME BY TURNING ME INTO A SPACE SPY!

INTERPLANETARY DETECTIVE IS A BETTER TERM. IF YOU TURN DOWN THE JOB, REX, YOU'LL BE UNDER SUSPICION HERE ON DOX!

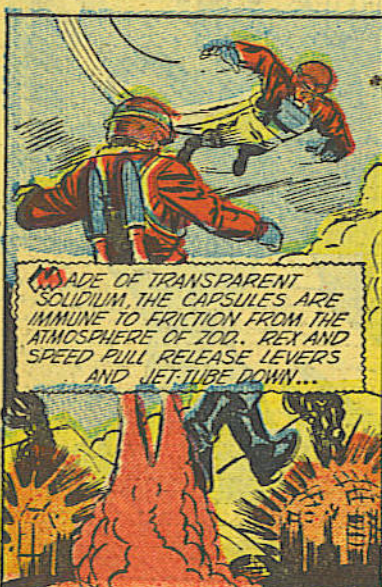
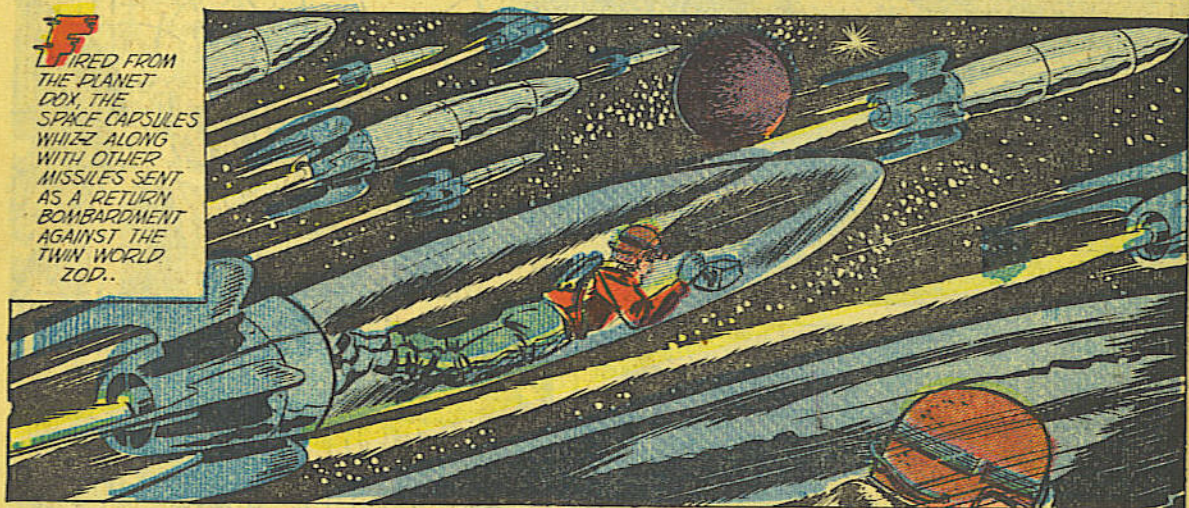


WELL, SPEED, AT LEAST THEY ARE SENDING YOU ALONG TO HELP ME!

LET'S CLIMB INTO THESE SPACE CAPSULES BEFORE THEY CHANGE THEIR MINDS!



FLIRED FROM THE PLANET DOX, THE SPACE CAPSULES WHIZZ ALONG WITH OTHER MISSILES SENT AS A RETURN BOMBARDMENT AGAINST THE TWIN WORLD ZOD.



MADE OF TRANSPARENT SOLIDIUM, THE CAPSULES ARE IMMUNE TO FRICTION FROM THE ATMOSPHERE OF ZOD. REX AND SPEED PULL RELEASE LEVERS AND JET-TUBE DOWN...

LET'S GET INTO OUR DEVIL OUTFITS AND USE OUR SPECIALIZED EQUIPMENT TO WORK UNDERGROUND!

IF WE DON'T GET KNOCKED THERE BY OUR OWN BARRAGE. BY THE WAY, DON'T FORGET YOUR HORNS!

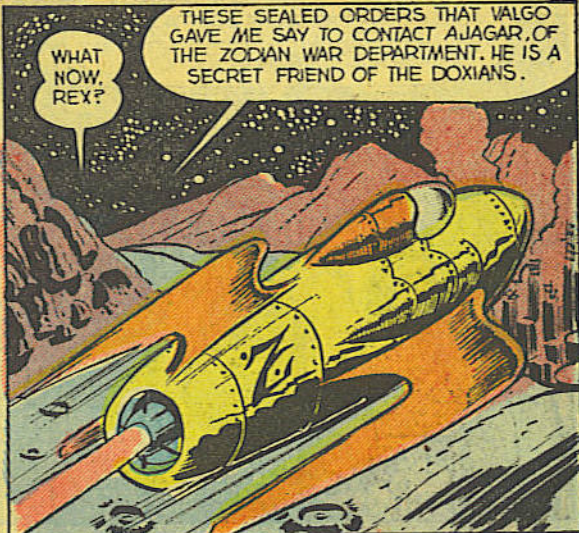


YOU WILL FIND THE ENTRANCE TO THE UNDER REALM OVER THERE. BUT YOU WILL NEED THE COUNTER-SIGN TO PASS!

THESE MIDGET LANGUAGE TRANSLATORS SURE WORK SMOOTH!



SPACE ADVENTURES



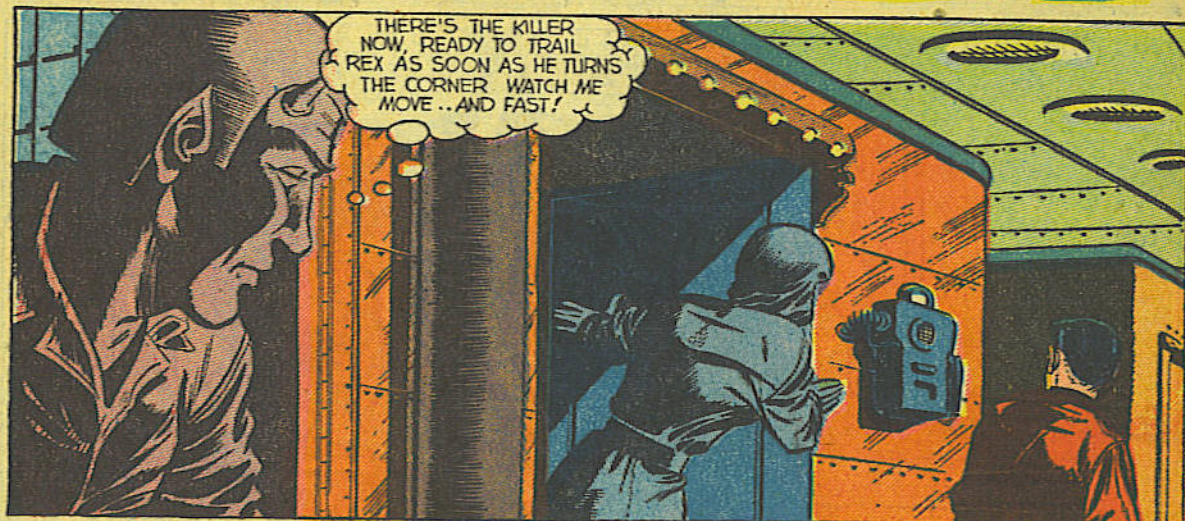
SPACE ADVENTURES



THE KILLER DOES NOT KNOW THAT AJAGAR IS DEAD. SO I MAKE A MOLD OF AJAGAR'S FACE FROM TRANSPARENT PLASTIFLEX TO WEAR MYSELF!

NOW, BY WEARING AJAGAR'S OFFICIAL ROBE, I CAN WALK OUT OF HERE AS AJAGAR HIMSELF!

AND I'LL PICK UP THE KILLER'S TRAIL IF HE FOLLOWS YOU!



THERE'S THE KILLER NOW, READY TO TRAIL REX AS SOON AS HE TURNS THE CORNER. WATCH ME MOVE...AND FAST!



A GIRL....AND A CUTE LITTLE DEVIL AT THAT! BUT I WON'T GIVE HER TIME TO KNIFE ME!

AS THE GIRL RAISES HER HAND, HER JEWELLED RING DELIVERS A 'Z-RAY' JOLT AS POWERFUL AS REX'S WRIST-PROJECTOR, STUNNING SPEED INSTANTLY!



THIS MUST BE CHOQ, THE MASTER-DEVIL-MASTER! I HOPE SPEED HAS SENSE ENOUGH TO STAY OUT OF HERE!

AH! HERE IS AJAGAR, JUST IN TIME TO DISCUSS THE FATE OF OUR NEIGHBORING PLANET, DOX!

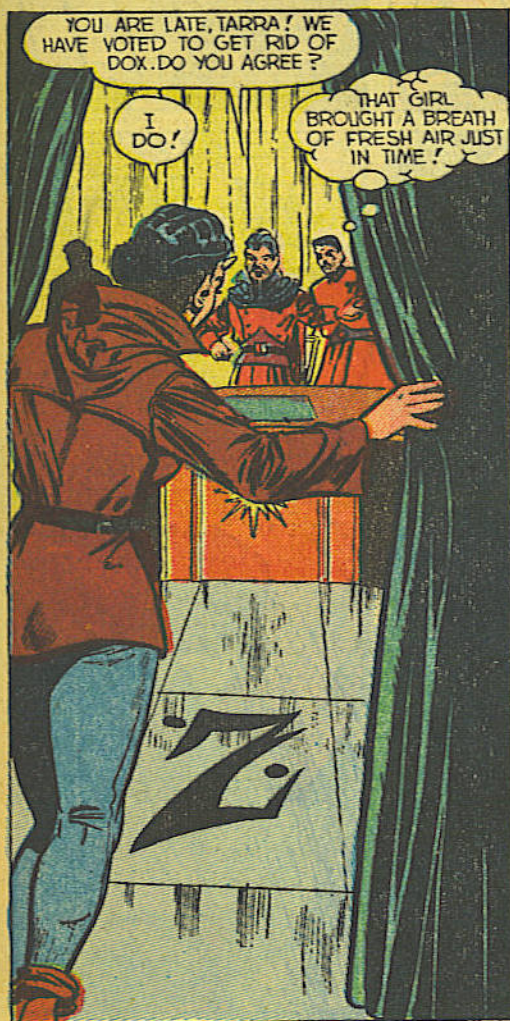


SPACE ADVENTURES

DISGUISED AS A JAGAR, REX CLIVE, INTERPLANETARY DETECTIVE, SITS IN ON THE CONFERENCE OF THE DEVIL-MASTERS OF THE PLANET ZOD!



I WISH THESE DEVILS WOULD DECIDE SOMETHING QUICK! MY FAKE HORNS WILL BE MELTING ALL OVER MY PLASTI-FLEX MASK. IN THIS VOLCANIC HEAT!



SPACE ADVENTURES



I'LL GRAB A SET OF THESE PLANS FOR MYSELF. ORG. WON'T KNOW WHAT HIT HIM WHEN HE WAKES UP!

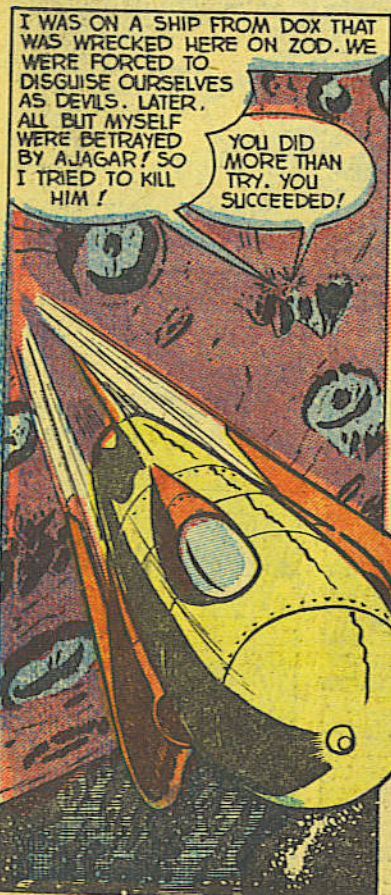
NEITHER WILL YOU, AJAGAR!

ONE MOVE FOR THAT WRIST PROJECTOR AND I'LL 'Z-RAY' YOU!

MY HORNS AND FACE WILL REALLY MELT IN ANOTHER MINUTE! SAY... LOOK AT TARRA'S HORNS DROOP. SHE CAN'T STAND HEAT EITHER!



I'M NO ZODIAN DEVIL AND NEITHER ARE YOU! I'M NOT EVEN AJAGAR! WHEN I GET RID OF THIS PHONY FACE AND OTHER REGALIA, I'LL PROVE IT!



I WAS ON A SHIP FROM DOX THAT WAS WRECKED HERE ON ZOD. WE WERE FORCED TO DISGUISE OURSELVES AS DEVILS. LATER, ALL BUT MYSELF WERE BETRAYED BY AJAGAR! SO I TRIED TO KILL HIM!

YOU DID MORE THAN TRY. YOU SUCCEEDED!



LATER...

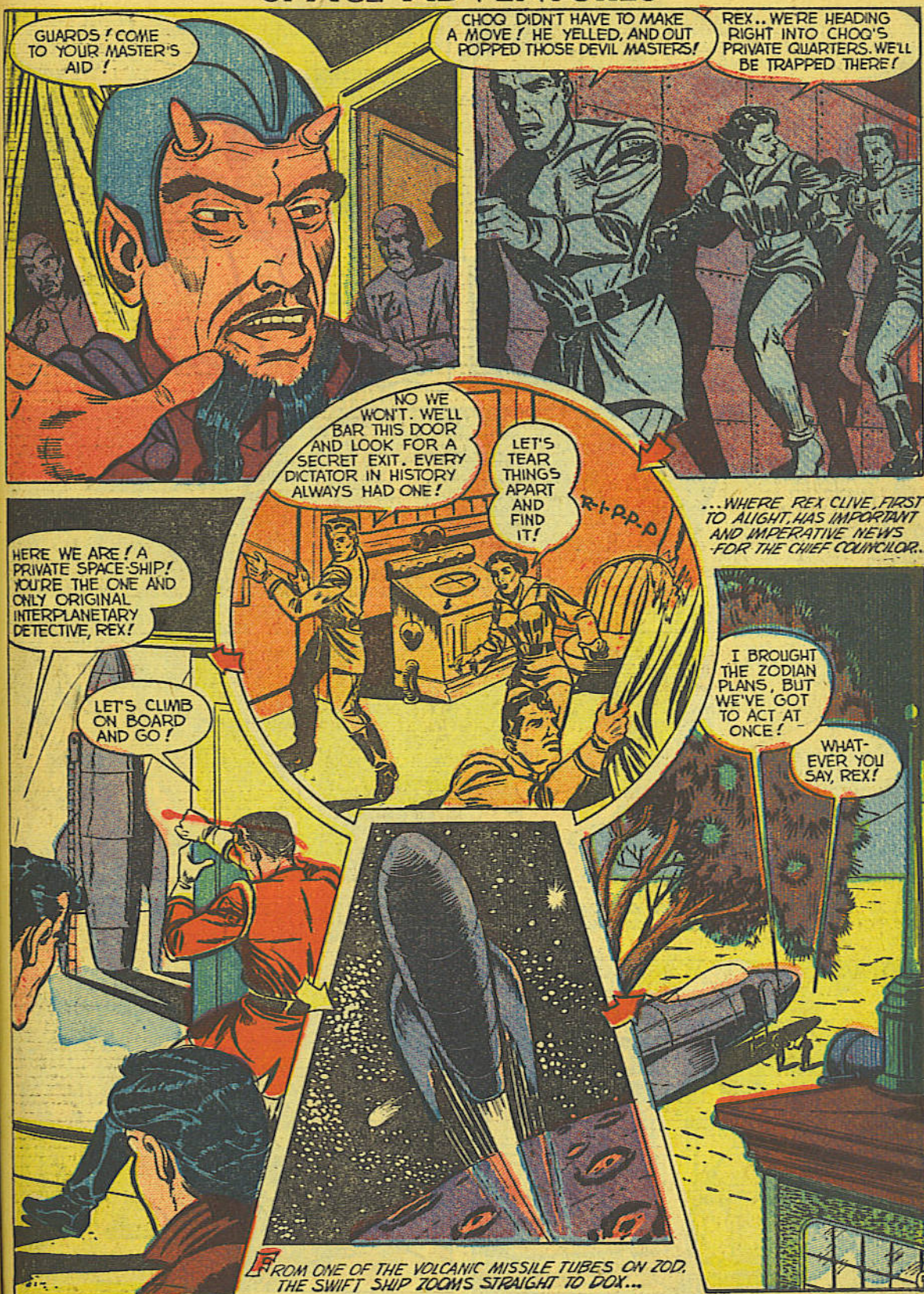
GET OUT OF THAT DEVIL'S OUTFIT. SPEED. I'VE GOT THE PLANS WE CAME FOR BY THE WAY, AJAGAR WAS BUZZING FOR GUARDS TO COME AND TAKE US OVER, WHEN TARRA NICKED HIM!



DOXIANS! HOW DID YOU GET HERE?

NEVER MIND THAT, CHOG. WE WANT SAFE TRANSPORT TO DOX, NO QUESTIONS ASKED.

SPACE ADVENTURES



GUARDS! COME TO YOUR MASTER'S AID!

CHOQ DIDN'T HAVE TO MAKE A MOVE! HE YELLED, AND OUT POPPED THOSE DEVIL MASTERS!

REX... WE'RE HEADING RIGHT INTO CHOQ'S PRIVATE QUARTERS. WE'LL BE TRAPPED THERE!

NO WE WON'T. WE'LL BAR THIS DOOR AND LOOK FOR A SECRET EXIT. EVERY DICTATOR IN HISTORY ALWAYS HAD ONE!

LET'S TEAR THINGS APART AND FIND IT!

HERE WE ARE! A PRIVATE SPACE-SHIP! YOU'RE THE ONE AND ONLY ORIGINAL INTERPLANETARY DETECTIVE, REX!

LET'S CLIMB ON BOARD AND GO!

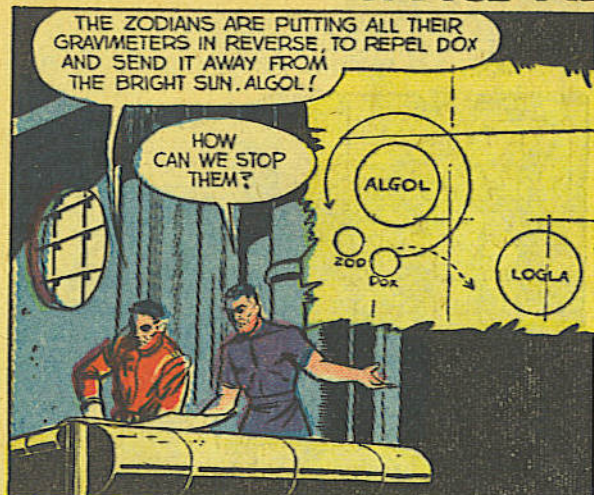
...WHERE REX CLIVE, FIRST TO ALIGHT, HAS IMPORTANT AND IMPERATIVE NEWS FOR THE CHIEF COUNCILOR...

I BROUGHT THE ZODIAN PLANS, BUT WE'VE GOT TO ACT AT ONCE!

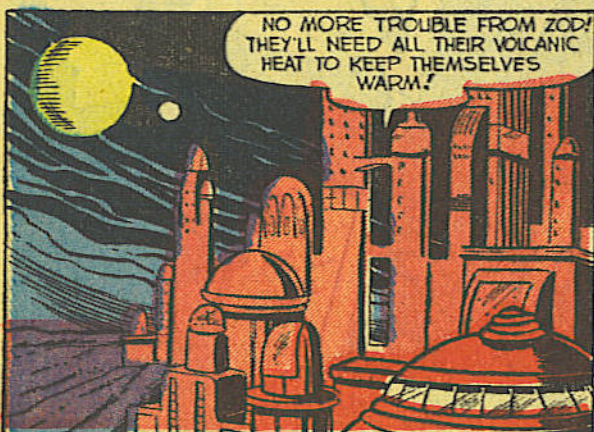
WHAT-EVER YOU SAY, REX!

FROM ONE OF THE VOLCANIC MISSILE TUBES ON ZOD, THE SWIFT SHIP ZOOMS STRAIGHT TO DOX...

SPACE ADVENTURES



ZOD THE LOSER, GOES FLYING OFF THROUGH SPACE TO BE CAPTURED AND REVOLVE ABOUT THE DULL SUN LOGLA...

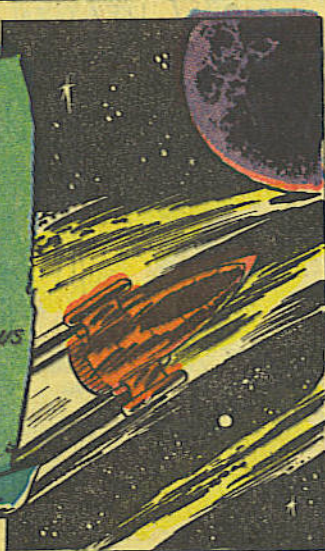


SPACE ADVENTURES

The CREATURES OF JARGA



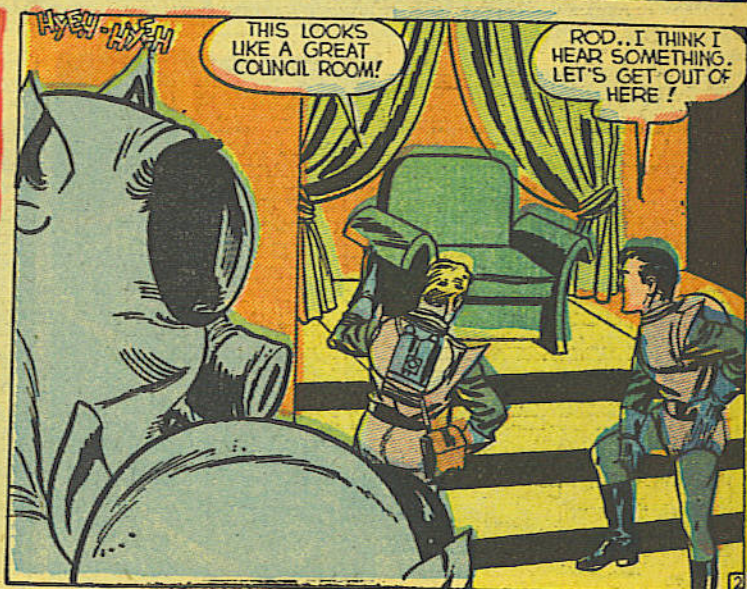
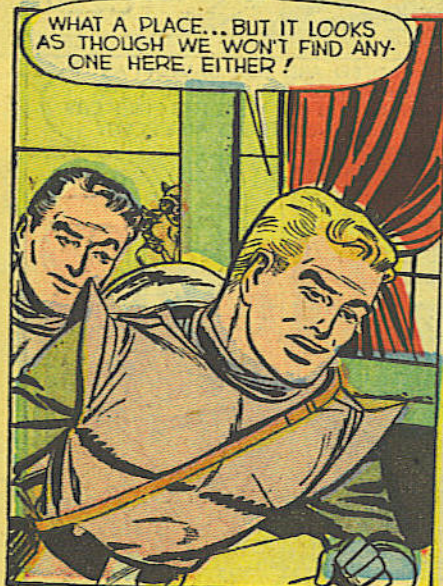
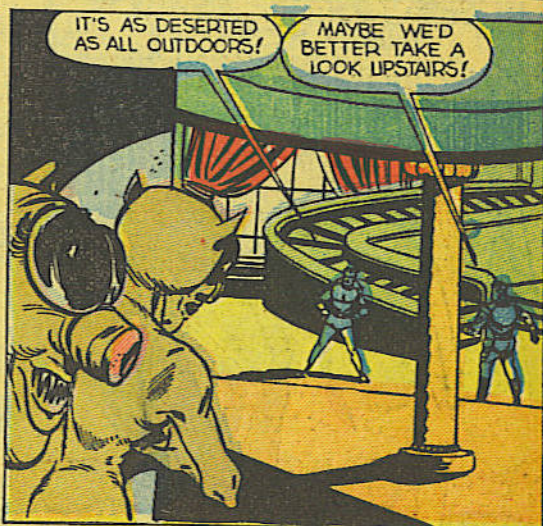
THOUSAND YEARS FROM NOW, A GREAT EXPEDITION HAS BEEN SENT FROM EARTH IN A GIGANTIC SPACESHIP, THE *FUTURA*. ITS PURPOSE... TO VISIT OTHER STARS IN OUR GALAXY AND FIND SUNS WITH PLANETS LIKE OUR OWN, SUITABLE TO RECEIVE EARTH'S SURPLUS POPULATION. THEY HAVE FOUND SUCH A PLANET, NEAR THE BLUE SUN SIRIUS... THE PLANET JARGA...



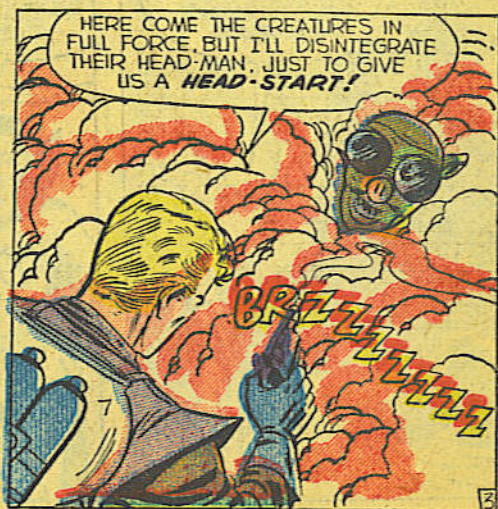
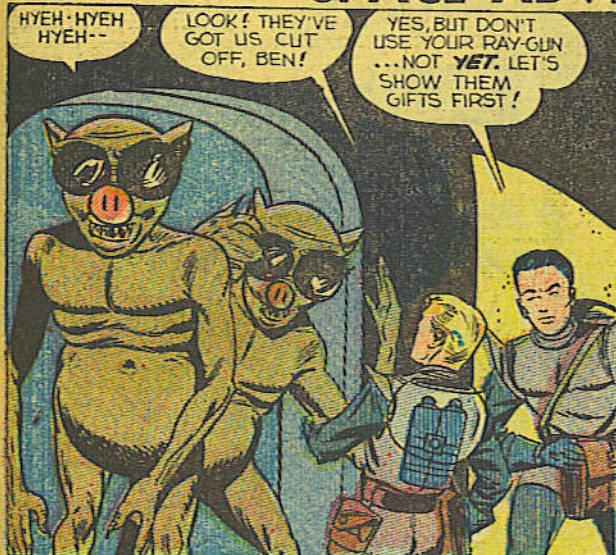
ROD CARTER AND BEN DAMON! AS COMMANDER OF THE *FUTURA* I AM ASSIGNING YOU TO VISIT THE CHIEF CITY OF JARGA AND BRING A REPORT!



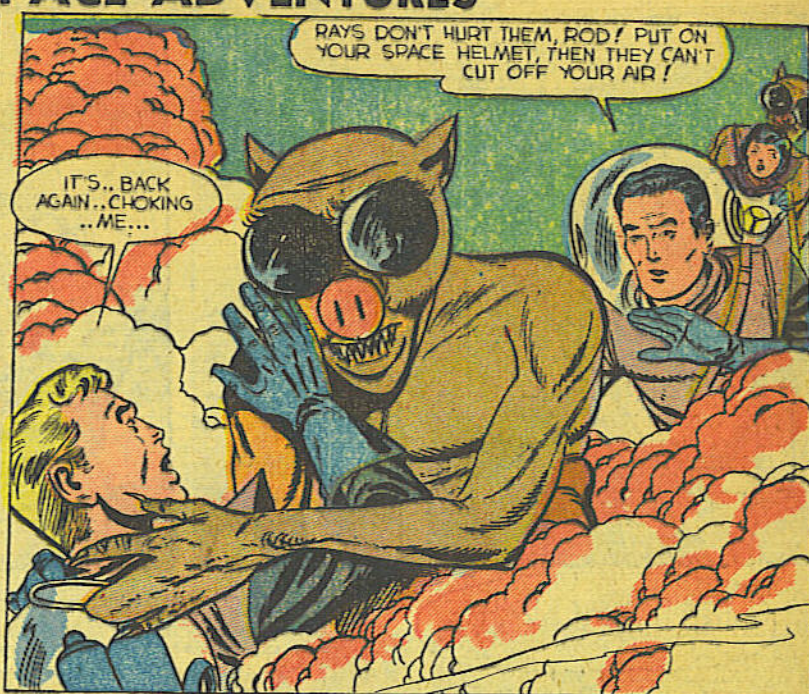
SPACE ADVENTURES



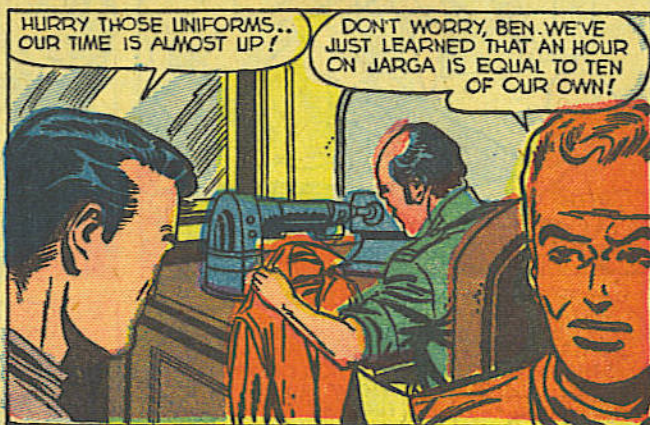
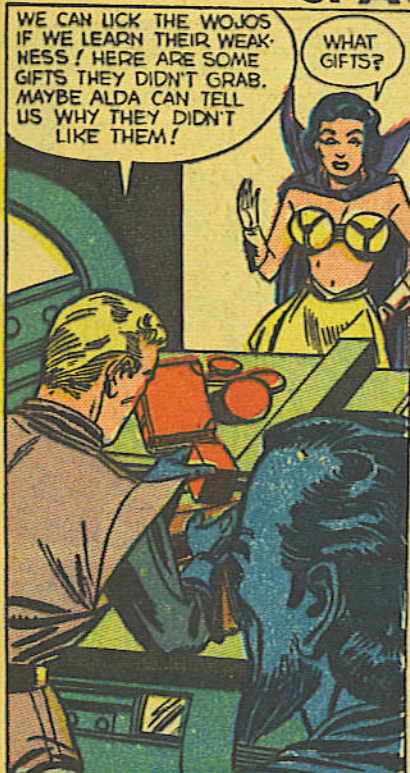
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